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REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

TO WHOM HAD BEEN REFERRED SO MUCH OF THE MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AS RELATES TO THE

SUBJECT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EMIGRATION.

REPORT.

The Select Committee to whom had been referred so much of the message of his Excellency the Governor, as relates to the subject of the Commissioner of Emigration, and also the report of said officer, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to

REPORT:

That from the report of the Commissioner and other sources of information which your committee have obtained, they fully concur with the Governor, in his views as expressed in his message, as to the usefulness of the Agency and its importance to the State.

Among the many reasons which have been presented in its examination of the subject, and which induce them to regard the continuance of this Agency as important, your committee would briefly allude to the following:

1. The operation of the Agency thus far, although in the incipiency, has been manifestly advantageous, as emigrants have been induced, through the instrumentality of the Commissioner, to locate in Wisconsin, bringing with them a large amount of capital, which together with the known frugality, industry and economy which characterizes a great portion of our immigration, will add to our annual revenue more than the amount expended annually in keeping up in its activity and usefulness, our Agency in New York.

2. The course adopted by the Commissioner, of writing and placing himself in communication with agents in the various shipping ports of Europe, will, in the opinion of your committee, result in the greatest advantage to the interest of our State.—Many now in Europe upon the representations made by our Commissioner in such communications, are, doubtless, now preparing to avail themselves of the opportunity offered them through the Agency, of reaching our State, with the certainty of being met on their landing from ship board, by one whose duty it is to protect the interests of the emigrants and speed them, with as little delay and expense as possible, to find a home and a new fatherland within the limits of Wisconsin.

3. The statistical information which has been sent, through the Agency, to the several portions of Europe, will tend much to direct the attention of capitalists to the mineral and agricultural wealth, with which our State, in almost every locality, is teeming: and it is not unreasonable, to your committee, to suppose that a large amount of capital will be brought or sent from Europe to Wisconsin, to assist in developing the resources of our State.

4. Good faith on the part of the State, should be kept with those who, by its accredited agents, have been induced to leave the place of their nativity and seek a home in this Western World. And your committee, from the report of the Commissioner, are convinced that many emigrants will arrive during the ensuing year in New York, destined for Wisconsin, relying upon this State having there an Agent in whom they can place confidence, and from whom they may expect such necessary instructions as will enable them to be transported with as little delay as possible to the place of their destination. Many of our adopted fellow citizens have already transmitted to Europe, money, to enable their friends to reach Wisconsin, and have instructed them on arrival to apply to our Agent for information. Should the Agency be continued, the benefits arising from it, will be made manifest during the coming year. Should it be discontinued, especially at this time, we may expect a great falling off of the immigration to this State, caused by the loss of confidence and distrust which will assuredly follow the withdrawal of our Agency.

5. The demand for laborers is at present great, and every inducement should be offered, to secure for Wisconsin an increased supply of that respectable and most useful class of our population; and with proper exertions on the part of an active Agent, our State will soon be supplied with a sufficiency of resident laborers, to whom constant employment can be given in prosecuting the railroad enterprises which are now in hand and fast verging to completion.

In view of these reasons, your committee recommend that the office of Commissioner of Emigration be continued, and that the term of office of said Commissioner be extended to two years, unless the incumbent be sooner removed for cause.

Your committee believe that it is best for the interest of the State, that the appointment of the said commissioner should be confided to the Executive, in order that said officer shall be under the immediate control of the Governor, to be by him removed or suspended, whenever there may be reason sufficient in his estimation for so doing.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to present to the Assembly, and ask the favorable consideration of

"A bill to amend section 432 of the session laws of 1852.

All of which is respectfully submitted.